

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 04356 230956Z

41

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 OMB-01

AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/092 W

----- 003793

R 230620Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4667

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4356

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB

SUBJECT: THE PRC AND CAMBODIA

REF: A. HONG KONG 4225 B. HONG KONG 4217

1. SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF THE BIGGEST VICTORY SINCE 1949 FOR ASIAN COMMUNISTS, A CHINA AVERSE TO AN INDOCHINA DOMINATED BY A MOSCOW-BACKED HANOI HAS MOVED QUICKLY TO ACCLAIM THE CAMBODIAN VICTORY AND TO EMPHASIZE ITS SUPPORT AND BACKING FOR SIHANOUK AS HEAD OF A NEW AND INDEPENDENT CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT. PEKING IS SEEKING TO PARLAY ITS SIHHNOUK CONNECTION AND ITS 1974 SUPPORT FOR KHIEU SAMPHAN TO MAXIMIZE PRC INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA. WITH THE GRUNK VICTORY, PEKING HAS ALSO SCORED A MARCH OVER MOSCOW IN SEEKING TO DISCREDIT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 04356 230956Z

FUTURE SOVIET EFFORTS IN INDOCHINA. ALTHOUGH PRC MEDIA ALSO

REMAINS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE PAST US ROLE IN CAMBODIA, RECENT SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO MAO'S STATEMENT OF MAY 20, 1970 SEEM AS MUCH A VEILED MESSAGE OF WARNING TO HANOI AS A GENERAL EXPOSITION OF CHINA'S WORLD VIEW. END SUMMARY

2. IN THE WAKE OF THE BIGGEST VICTORY SINCE 1949 FOR ASIAN COMMUNISTS, CHINA HAS MOVED QUICKLY TO ACCLAIM THE CAMBODIAN VICTORY AND TO EMPHASIZE PRC SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK AND THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION TO THE JOINT CONGRATULATORY CABLE FROM MAO TSE-TUNG, CHU TEH AND CHOU EN-LAI TO SIHANOUK AND THE CAMBODIAN LEADERS, TENG HSIAO-PING LED A TOP-LEVEL PRC PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION ON APRIL 18 WHICH PAID PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO SIHANOUK. TENG AGAIN CONVEYED THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT'S PRAISE FOR THE CAMBODIAN VICTORY AND SINGLED OUT FOR ACCLAIM SIHANOUK'S ROLE AS A RALLYING FORCE FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE.

3. PEKING GAVE ATTENTION BEFITTING A HEAD OF STATE LAST YEAR TO KHIEU SAMPHAN, LEADER OF THE IN-COUNTRY INSURGENT FORECAST, WITH TOP-LEVEL PRC RECEPTIONS, A MAJOR POLITICAL MASS RALLY AND EXTENSIVE SUBSEQUENT PRC TRAVEL ASSISTANCE VISIBLY DEMONSTRATING CHINESE SUPPORT EFFORTS. SIGNIFICANTLY, AT THIS YEAR'S APRIL 19 PEKING RALLY CELEBRATING THE CAMBODIAN FORCES' VICTORY, ALTHOUGH WANG HUNG-WEN ONCE AGAIN FIGURED PROMINENTLY AMONG THE LIST OF PRC DIGNITARIES IN ATTENDANCE, CHINA'S TOP-RANKING MILITARY FIGURE AND SENIOR POLITBORO MEMBER YEH CHIEN-YING DID THE HONORS. YEH TERMED THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE'S VICTORY "POWERFUL SUPPORT AND GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE" AND PLEDGED CONTINUED PRC SUPPORT. IN RESPONSE, GRUNK PRIME MINISTER PENN NOUTH WAS EFFUSIVE IN HIS EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION FOR CHINESE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OVER THE YEARS. SIHANOUK WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE RALLY, APPARENTLY TO BE AT HIS DYING MOTHER'S SIDE.

4. CHINA CLEARLY HOPES THAT ITS SIHANOUK CONNECTION AND PAST SUPPORT FOR KHIEU SAMPHAN WILL YIELD FURTHER DIVIDENDS, AND PRC MEDIA HAVE BEEN PUBLICIZING REPORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES COMING IN FOR SIHANOUK AND THE NEW CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT. SIHANOUK'S OWN EXPECTATIONS OF PLAYING A MODEST ROLE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH CHINA'S TREATMENT OF SIHANOUK AND THE CAMBODIAN VICTORY WHICH UNDER-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 04356 230956Z

SCORES PEKING'S APPARENT DESIRE TO SEE HIM PLAY A PROMINENT AND INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN A NEW PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT THAT IS NON-ALIGNED YET FRIENDLY TO CHINA. SIHANOUK'S APPARENT OPPOSITION TO A VIETNAM- LAOS-CAMBODIA CONFEDERATION WHICH COULD BE DOMINATED BY HANOI MAKE HIM ALL THE MORE ATTRACTIVE TO PEKING (HK 4225). WITH THE RELATIONSHIP OF KHIEU SAMPHAN AND THE IN-COUNTRY COMMUNIST FORCES TO HANOI STILL UNCLEAR, CHINA NEEDS TO HUSBAND ITS SIHANOUK RESOURCE CAREFULLY LEST TOO BLATANT A CHINESE EMBRACE ERODE

SIHANOUK'S NATIONALISTIC CREDENTIALS.

5. HAVING BACKED A SIHANOUK RESIDENT IN PEKING THROUGH THICK AND THIN, THE PRC HAS SCORED A MARCH OVER MOSCOW. PRC MEDIA HAVE PLAYED UP THE SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND PORTRAYED MOSCOW'S LAST MINUTE SWITCH TO SUPPORT FOR THE GRUNK-FUNK SIDE AS UNMISTAKABLE EVIDENCE OF SOVIET PERFIDY AND PURSUIT OF ITS OWN HEGMONIC INTERESTS IN THE AREA.

6. IN ORCHESTRATING TREATMENT OF THE CAMBODIAN VICTORY, THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF BOTH THE SOVIETS AND THE US. BUT IN CONTRAST WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF SOVIET ACTIONS AS SELF-SERVING, THE DEFEAT OF THE US-SUPPORTED LON NOL GOVERNMENT IS VIEWED AS TESTIMONY TO THE VALIDITY OF COMMUNIST TENENTS. PRC LEADERS HAVE ASSERTED THAT THE CAMBODIAN VICTORY IS "AND EVENT OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE" BEARING OUT THE WIDOM OF MAO'S MAY 20, 1970 STATEMENT." THEY SPECIFICALLY REFER TO THAT PORTION OF THE STATEMENT WHICH STATES THAT "A WEAK NATION CAN DEFEAT A STRONG. A SMALL NATION CAN DEFEAT A BIG. THE PEOPLE OF A SMALL COUNTRY CAN CERTAINLY DEFEAT AGGRESSION BY A BIG COUNTRY, IF ONLY THEY DARE TO RISE IN STRUGGLE, DARE TO TAKE UP ARMS AND GRASP IN THEIR OWN HANDS THE DESTINY OF THEIR COUNTRY. THIS IS A LAW OF HISTORY."

7. ALTHOUGH EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF THE US ROLE IN CAMBODIA, CHINA'S SHARPEST CRITICISM IS REVERSED FOR US ACTIONS FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN IT CHARGES "US IMPERIALISM" WITH HAVING "ENGINEERED THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY COUP D'ETAT" IN CAMBODIA. MAO'S MAY 20, 1970 STATEMENT, OF COURSE, WAS ORIGINALLY DIRECTED TOWARD THE US AND HAD SPECIFIC CONDEMNATION OF US FORCES' ENTRANCE INTO CAMBODIA. BUT SIGNIFICANTLY, THE STATEMENT ALSO DECLARED THE PRC'S STRONG SUPPORT AND BACKING FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT. IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT OF A RAPIDLY EVOLVING SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, THESE REFERENCES TO THE MAY 20TH STATEMENT NOW SEEM AS MUCH A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HONG K 04356 230956Z

VEILED AND INDIRECT MESSAGE TO HANOI ABOUT ATTEMPTS TO DOMINATE CAMBODIAN AFFAIRS AS A GENERAL EXPOSITION OF CHINA'S WORLD VIEW.
CROSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK04356
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750142-0551
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750425/aaaaaxkl.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HONG KONG 4225, 75 HONG KONG 4217
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE PRC AND CAMBODIA
TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006